

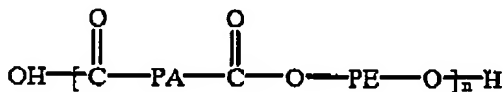
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Serial No. : 10/036,022
Filed : December 26, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 00216-368004 / OB-84D

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 with the following:

D11
✓ Suitable thermoplastic elastomers are those which have sufficient stiffness and hardness for effective gum massage and to resist tearing and/or excessive wear during use, while being sufficiently soft to provide comfort and avoid gum irritation during gum massage. Suitable thermoplastic elastomers include polyetheramides, e.g., PEBAX polymers (Elf Atochem); polyesters, e.g. HYTREL polymers (Dupont); styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, and styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, e.g. KRATON rubbers (Shell); polyurethanes, e.g., PELLETHANE polyurethanes (DOW); polyolefin elastomers, e.g. SANTOPRENE elastomers (Advanced Elastomer Systems); and mixtures thereof. Poly(ether-amide) block copolymers having the general formula



where PA=polyamide segment and PE=polyether segment, commercially available under the tradename PEBAX polymers, are particularly preferred. Of these, a copolymer of nylon 12 and poly(tetramethylene glycol) ~~having the general formula~~ commercially available under the tradename PEBAX MX-1205 polymer is particularly preferred. Another preferred thermoplastic elastomer comprises a blend of a polyamide sold under the tradename PEBAX 2533 and a block copolymer sold under the tradename KRATON G-6713, preferably containing about 90 % of the polyamide and 10 % of the block copolymer. This blend provides good softness without tackiness or weakness. ✓